



NEWS RELEASE

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District 7: Los Angeles & Ventura Counties
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3,000 LA Students Explore Their Future in Construction, Trade Opportunities

LOS ANGELES –Approximately 2,000 high school students and 1,000 community college students learned how to build a bridge, climb a pole, and operate a sign truck and back hoe at the fourth annual Construction and Associated Careers Awareness Day at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. They interacted with over 40 industry representatives, union leaders and construction professionals at the event sponsored by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Los Angeles Community College District and California Community Connection Corporation (C4).

"As the nation's second largest school district, and with a building and modernization program totaling more than \$20 billion, it is our duty to encourage today's youth to seek careers in the construction industry and explore the many different career paths available to them," said John E. Deasy, LAUSD school superintendent. "This is an unmatched opportunity for our students to interact with future employers and ultimately ensure that the construction industry will have the talent necessary to continue this important work – at LAUSD and beyond – well into the future."

Each year schools are invited to bring their seniors to this unique event that enhances their classroom training and provides them a glimpse of their possible future careers. The day provides to students access to potential employers and offers employers the opportunity to inspire future employees. Los Angeles Trade Technical College, a school that specializes in trade curriculum, uses this opportunity as an open house for potential applicants.

"This event gives Los Angeles Trade-Technical College a wonderful opportunity to provide personal outreach to thousands of high school students who may not know about the unmatched career-technical training we provide at this campus," said president Dr. Chip Chapdelaine. "We call ourselves dream makers because the higher education we offer here at Trade Tech changes people's lives."

Students learned about education, internship opportunities and careers in construction and related industries at this day-long event that included exhibits, heavy equipment demonstrations, a solar panel presentation and a virtual bridge building display.

They were introduced to technical careers including carpentry, plumbing, welding, solar energy, electrical, heating and air conditioning, pipe trades, landscaping and paving. Construction-related careers included engineering, surveying, architecture, project management, construction financing and management, transportation construction and maintenance, and community development.

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“Caltrans strongly encourages students to pursue work experience opportunities as the road ahead is paved with possibilities,” said Michael Miles, Caltrans District 7 director. “The Department works with adopt-a-school programs at Jefferson and Wilson high schools in Los Angeles County and also supports internships through the California Student Outreach Program. Additionally, Caltrans employees volunteer in classrooms to introduce the transportation and civil engineering program to students.”

Caltrans presently has over 598 highway and freeway projects in construction across the state valued at \$10.5 billion. In Los Angeles and Ventura counties, there are 98 ongoing contracts valued at nearly \$1.8 billion. There are opportunities for construction, management, maintenance, design, environmental analysis and planning. This is an unprecedented time to get involved in infrastructure improvements.

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